steps have been taken to stop these to flood the markets; and

(b) the number of such products confiscated and the persons involved, arrested?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government of India have not yet accorded approval for import, export commercial production, storage, handling and marketing of any Genetically Engineered Food in the country. As per the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Rules 1989, it is mandatory that all such products obtain the approval of Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests from bio-safety (environmental and food safety) angle for use and sale in the country.

Further, action has been taken by the Ministry of Environment and Forests to enlarge the scope of Rule 11 of Environment (Protection) Rules 1989 for obtaining a mandatory declaration as to whether the commodity being imported is Genetically Modified/Engineered or not.

Any violation of the Environment (Protection) Act and Rules is prosecutable. So far, no such consignment has been confiscated nor any one prosecuted or arrested.

Promotion of agriculture on contract basis

†*466. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the practice of promotion of agriculture on contract basis has begun under the new agricultural policy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that many multinational companies have started cultivation on contract basis in various regions of the country; and

(c) if so, which are those multinational companies and in which States cultivation has been started by them in the first phase and the area of land being cultivated in each State?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) No specific programme for promotion of agriculture on contract basis has been initiated under the National Agriculture Policy announced in July, 2000.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Contract Farming, however, is already being practiced in different States for production of various crops such as sugarcane, tobacco, oil palm, horticultural crops, plantation crops, etc. besides production of seeds of different crops.

Under the contract farming arrangements, the farmers carry on cultivation on contract basis with buy-back arrangements with the companies including multinational companies. Contract farming promotes and facilitate transfer of technology, in flow of quality inputs and funds, improved post harvest practices and assured market for agricultural produce.

Data bases on the coverage and operation of contract farming practices in different States have not yet been developed.

Compassionate appointments in KVS

*469. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total appointments on class III and IV, posts made by the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan on compassionate grounds in all the States, stating the appointments of SCs/STs made;

(b) how many cases of compassionate appointments are pending with the Sangathan;

(c) the details of SC/ST carry forward vacancies against compassionate grounds available as on 1st January, 2000 and 1st January, 2001; and

(d) how many cases for appointments on compassionate grounds, in respect of SCs/STs are lying pending and by when action would be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) 16 candidates have been appointed in KVs on compassionate grounds during the preceding two years, details of which are as follows:

Year	Group 'C' Post	Group 'D' Post
1999-2000	Nil	12
2000-2001	4	Nil
TOTAL :	4	12

(b) 26 cases.